



WEEKLY UPDATE – JULY 2, 2009

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT LOCAL EARLY STEPS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local Early Steps (LES) Funding Opportunities applications were emailed at 4:57 PM on June 30! If your LES did not receive the application material, please contact Lynn Marie Price at LynnMarie_Price@doh.state.fl.us. The deadlines for submission to the Early Steps State Office are,

Group A = July 17, 2009, 12 Midnight Eastern Time

Group B = August 28, 2009, 12 Midnight Eastern Time

APPLICATION IDEA! Purchase video cameras or other technology devices for your community provider teams that will enhance their effectiveness as Primary Service Providers especially for consulting with each other on child/family strategies and also scoring evaluation protocols.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION 1: We have been looking into air cards for our employees to improve their wireless capabilities, which in turn should improve efficiency, productivity, and patient services. Unfortunately, it is not the actual cost of the air cards which is \$0.00, but the monthly recurring service charges that are so significant. (There is also a 2 year minimum contract requirement for each of the air cards). I assume this would not qualify under the Technology Devices category, but do you see where we could possibly incorporate the service in either the Pilot Project or the Performance Improvement categories? I am reaching.....

ANSWER 1: First, I hope you are going through your local Verizon contact since you can get significant savings because you are considered part of our state system! I can get you a specific name if you need it.

Secondly, I would definitely put the recurring monthly charges in a Pilot Project. This will allow you to assess the effectiveness of the air cards and get true cost data. In your plan put in something about increased efficiency of Service Coordinators leads to increased time billed to TCM which increases revenue to support the cost in the future. See where I am going? Go for it!

PUBLIC AWARENESS SURVEY OF NEEDS

Attached please find the shipping/ordering sheets for Early Steps State Office Public Awareness materials purchase. These orders contain the shipping addresses and amounts to purchase for brochures,

booklets, and promotional items for each LES. There is a separate worksheet (see named tabs) for each product's ordering sheet.

First, please check that the shipping contact/address listed for your LES is current and accurate.

Second, look over the amounts being ordered for your LES. We have more money available for purchasing public awareness materials this year, so if you want more items than are shown in the spreadsheets please send us your specifics in a request.

We need these orders accurate before getting any vendor quotes, so your response is needed **NO LATER THAN JULY 10th**. Please review and email your confirmation, updates, and requests to Pam Porter here at the ESSO, e-mail: pamela_porter@doh.state.fl.us.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

All Speech-Language Pathologists who work with young children 6 years of age or younger are invited to take part in this important survey. Speech-Language Pathology graduate students working under the supervision of a certified Speech-Language Pathologist may also participate.

The survey consists of 20 items and should take no more than 5-10 minutes. The purpose is to learn what Speech-Language Pathologists presently do and what they recommend to support their role in helping families reach a diagnosis of autism sooner.

The invitation to participate in a National Survey of Speech-Language Pathologists is attached. Please help pass this invitation along to Speech-Language Pathologists who work with children 6 and under in your state.

PRESIDENT OBAMA COMMEMORATES ANNIVERSARY OF OLMSTEAD AND ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES TO ASSIST AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

On the 10th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.*, President Barack Obama today celebrated that anniversary and launched "The Year of Community Living," a new effort to assist Americans with disabilities.

Specifically, the President has directed Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan to work together to identify ways to improve access to housing, community supports, and independent living arrangements. As part of this effort Secretaries Sebelius and Donovan will announce several new initiatives including details about increased numbers of Section 8 vouchers and enhanced interagency coordination to address this critical civil rights issue. The initiative also will include listening sessions conducted by HHS across the country to hear the voices and stories of Americans and to keep the President's pledge to be as open and transparent as possible.

"The *Olmstead* ruling was a critical step forward for our nation, articulating one of the most fundamental rights of Americans with disabilities: Having the choice to live independently," said President Obama. "I am proud to launch this initiative to reaffirm my Administration's commitment to vigorous enforcement of civil rights for Americans with disabilities and to ensuring the fullest inclusion of all people in the life of our nation."

In the *Olmstead* case, the Court held that the unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Since that time, progress has been made. Many individuals have successfully transitioned to community settings, but waiting lists for

community services have grown considerably and many individuals who would like to receive community services are not able to obtain them.

To help remedy that problem, the Obama Administration provided over \$140 million in the Recovery Act funding for independent living centers across the country. The Administration acknowledges that strides have been made, and knows and accepts that there is much work to do in order to maximize the choices and opportunities for individuals to receive long-term services and supports in institutional and community settings.

The President noted that his Administration looks forward to continued engagement with the disability community to achieve these goals.

NECTAC NEWS

For the most current issues of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

UPCOMING TRAININGS/MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

AUTISM DIAGNOSTIC OBSERVATION SCHEDULE (ADOS) WORKSHOP

The Emory Autism Center at Emory University School of Medicine is once again pleased to announce a 2-day Clinical ADOS workshop for professionals who diagnosis individuals suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder. The *Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)* is considered one of the “gold standard” diagnostic assessments for ASD. This training will focus on administration and scoring of the ADOS for use in clinical practices for early intervention and school district eligibility determination and clinical diagnostic assessments.

The training will be held October 8-9, 2009 on the campus of Emory University in Atlanta. The exact training location has yet to be determined. More information regarding the location of the training will be sent when space has been finalized.

Please forward the attached brochure and registration form to those individuals who may benefit from or be interested in this training. If you are part of a community list serve, please forward the information to your contacts so that they may also be informed of this training opportunity.